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BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health

for 1938.

BRIGHTLINGSEA:

PRINTED BY E. DRAPER & CO., SYDNEY STREET.

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Brightlingsea Urban District Council.

Chairman : Mr. H. C. ORTON.
Vice-Chairman : Mr. I. C. OSBORN.

Members of the Public Health Committee.

Chairman : Mr. I. C. OSBORN,

Mr H. C. ORTON
Mr. H. G. POLLEY
Mr. H WARREN
Mr. A. J. ALDRIDGE

Public Health Officers of the Brightlingsea Urban District :

Medical Officer of Health J. Ramsbottom, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to the Tendring R.D.C.

Sanitary Inspector—(Whole time Officer) J. C. Hicks, M.S.I.A. who acts also as Surveyor, Meat and Food Inspector, and Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Junior Clerk to the Surveyor— Mr. H. W. Woolvett.

Water Works Manager—I. S. Priest (whole time Officer).

Town Hall,
Brightlingsea,
July, 1939.

To the
Chairman and Members of the Brightlingsea Urban District Council.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1938.

The health of your District has again been good and the vital statistics compare favourably with those of the Country as a whole.

I beg to thank the Council for their assistance, and also wish to express my appreciation of the work and support of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. C. Hicks.

I remain gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. RAMSBOTTOM.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 2,873 acres (exclusive of Water)	
Population 1931 Census	2,873
Population R.G. Estimate 1936	4,210
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books ...	
Rateable value	£19,310
Sum represented by a penny rate	£73/14/0

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There has been no change in the social conditions as described in the Annual Report of 1934.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female
Birth			
Live Births—Legitimate ...	43	18	25
Illegitimate ...	2	1	1
Total Live Births	45	19	26
		Birth Rate, 10.69	
Still Births (legitimate) ...	0	0	0
	Rate per 1,000 Total Births, Nil		
Deaths	63	38	25
		Death Rate 15.0	

The above figure of 15.0 represents the crude Death Rate for Brightlingsea. In order to make this comparable with the contemporaneous crude death rate for the country as a whole it is necessary to multiply this figure by the comparability factor of .66 as supplied by the Registrar General. This gives a corrected local death rate of 9.9 which is comparable with the death rate for the county as a whole.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Child Birth.

Cause	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and stil births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes ...	1	22.2

Deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Actual number of deaths	1	1	Nil

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	22.22
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	23.26
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ..	Nil

Infantile Death Rate, 22.2

The single infantile death was that of a female child 3 months old who died of pneumonia.

DEATHS FROM MEASELS, WHOOPING COUGH, DIARRHOEA (under 2) AND CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, CANCER and INFLUENZA AND THE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 DURING 1938.

Disease			Deaths	Death Rate
Tuberculosis	Pullmonary ...	1	1	.24
	Non-Pulmonary	0		
Cancer			9	2.14
Influenza			0	Nil
Infectious Diseases			0	Nil
Pneumonia			2	.47

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT TIME OF DEATH.

Disease	Male	Female	Total	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	75 and over
Tuberculosis of Respirative System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis other forms	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer	4	5	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Diabetis	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart Disease	14	8	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	6	12
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Appendicitis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Digestative Diseases	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Senility	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Suicide	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Violence	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Othe Defined Diseases	6	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	2
Ill Defined or Uuknown	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tetal	36	25	63	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	8	10	15	27

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

Comparative Statistics. Brightlingsea U.D., the average of 148 of the smaller towns of England and Wales and the Country as a whole. The figures represent the number per 1,000 of the population.

	Brightlingsea	148 Smaller Towns	England & Wales
Birth Rate	10.69	15.4	13.4
Death Rate (corrected)	9.9	11.0	11.4
Infantile Death Rate	22.0	51.0	57.0
NOTIFICATIONS.			
Scarlet Fever	1.9	2.58	2.05
Diptheria	Nil	1.53	1.90
Enteric Fever	Nil	.04	.05
Erysipilas	Nil	.39	.46
Pneumonia	.23	.98	.98

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Officers—see beginning of the report.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

All bacteriological examinations, etc., are carried out through the County Scheme at the County Laboratory, 91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. 4. The number of specimens examined during 1938 are as follows :

Nature of Specimen	Number examined
Diptheria	4
Sputa	14
Water	10
Total ...	28

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Brightlingsea Urban District Council together with other local and ambulance authorities in North East Essex have, in accordance with the County Council's Scheme, agreed to pool the ambulance resources in the area of the contracting local authorities. To co-ordinated service appears to be both adequate and satisfactory.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

General. This is provided by the local District Nursing Association which is affiliated with the Essex County Nursing Assoc-

iation and is subsidised by the County Council. The arrangement is very satisfactory.

Infectious disease. No arrangement is in force and there is no necessity up to the present time.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are provided by the County Council, a combined clinic being held at the New Church School, on each alternate Wednesday afternoon.

(e) HOSPITALS.

The Urban District Authority have no hospital. Infectious Diseases requiring hospital treatment go the Colchester Borough Infectious Hospital the two Authorities having an agreement.

Midwives. There is one resident midwife in the district.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Water.

There have been no new sources of water supply since 1933. The deep bores give an ample supply of water. Both the chemical and bacteriological examinations prove to be satisfactory. The following are the most recent bacteriological reports, dated 12th December, 1938.

	Gravel	Deep Well Chalk Source	Lower Park Rd. Bore (Chalk)
Growth on Agar in 1 day at 37 C.C.	2	5	3
Baccillus Coli in 50 C.C.	Absent	Absent	Absent

The Council have decided to have both a chemical and bacteriological examination every three months under the County Scheme.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During 1938 an extension to the sewer was carried out on the West Marsh Pleasure Grounds. This sewer was necessary in order to erect another block of public sanitary conveniences on the West Marsh. An electric pump lift was necessary owing to the level of the area to be drained.

Length of extension 192 lineal yards 9″ Sewer.
100 ,, ,, 6″ ,,

Rivers and Streams.

There are none in the accepted sense. All reasonable precautions are taken to prevent pollution of tidal waters.

Closet Accommodation.

There have been no conversions from E.C.'s to W.C.'s during the year.

Below is given the approximate number of each type in the district.

Privies	0
Earth Closets	59

Public Cleansing.

The Urban District decided to change the system of Scavenging from that of contract to direct labour. This method was commenced on the 1st November, 1938. The Council have provided a Ford dustless vehicle for the purpose. Up to the present time the new arrangements are working not only satisfactorily but it is also proving to be more economical than having the work done by contract.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(iv) Shops and Offices.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(v) Camping Sites.

(a)	Number of sites in the Brightlingsea Area used for Camping purposes	1
(b)	Number of Camping Sites in respect of which Licenses have been issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	Nil
(c)	Estimated maximum number of Camps at any one time	12

(During the August Bank Holiday Week)

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(vii) Swimming Pools and Bath.

The Urban District has an Open Air Swimming Bath with an area of 2,500 square yards and a capacity of 550,000 gallons.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) Number of infested houses.

a	Council Houses ...	Nil
b	Other Houses ...	Nil
	Number Disinfected ...	Nil

(2) A liquid insecticide would be used.
(3) The Urban District have no council houses.
(4) The work would be carried out by the Local Authority
(5) Education of tenants would be by personal instructions at the time of inspection.

Schools.

The Sanitary Conveniences were periodically inspected.

The trough closets at the National School have been abolished during the alterations necessitated by the closing of the Infants' School and the conversion of the mixed School into a Junior School only.

Town Hall,
Brightlingsea.

To the Medical Officer of Health of the Brightlingsea Urban District Conncil.

Sir,

ANNUAL REPORT, 1938.

I beg to submit, in pursuance of Article 19 (15) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, details of work carried out during the year 1938.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

	No.	No. of inspections.
Houses ...	33	69 including re-visits
Other Premises ...	8	12 ,, ,,
Dairies and Milkshops	14	56 ,, ,,
Cowsheds ...	9	36 ,, ,,
Bakehouses ...	6	24 ,, ,,
Slaughterhouses ...	4	48 ,, ,,
Houses disinfected	10	
Complaints received and dealt with	11	
Informal Notices served	31	
STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED :		
Housing Act ...	Nil	
Public Health Act	26	
Informal Notices under P.H. Meat Regulations	Nil	
Informal Notices, Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 ...	Nil	

During Rat Week the Council assisted the owners in the Destruction of Rats. All Farm premises were visited twice and baits laid.

DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Roofs ...	9
Floors ...	9
	9

Walls and Ceiling Plaster	14
Sash Cords to Windows	17
Windows made to open	4
Damp Walls ...	13
Structural ...	1[illegible]
Eavesgutters ...	9
Wash Boiler ...	5
Cooking Ranges ...	4
Additional Water Closets	Nil
W.C. Pedestals repaired and renewed ...	7
W.C. flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	4
Urinals Cleansed ...	Nil
New Baths fitted (existing houses) ...	3
Earthenware sinks fitted	2
Choked Drains ...	7
Drains repaired or relaid	2
Inspection Chambers provided	1
Inspection Chambers repaired	Nil
Ventilating pipes repaired or renewed ...	3
Fresh-air Inlet repaired or renewed ...	1
Additional Gullies provided	4
Accumulations removed	3
Smoke abatement ...	Nil
Overcrowding ...	Nil
Water Service to existing houses	Nil
New dustbins provided	25
Yard Paving ...	1

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary Conveniences were periodically inspected and found to be in order.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

(a) Milk Supply.

Periodical visits are made.

In two cases I had to call attention for Limewashing which was carried out.

One dealer Licensed in Pasteurised Milk (Special Designations Order, 1923).

(b) Meat.

The class of cattle slaughtered in the district is very good and every effort is made for inspection at the time of slaughter. The amount slaughtered in the district is small in comparison to the population, but this is accounted for by three of the larger premises one of which gets its meat from the Head Butchery Department, Colchester and the other two from agents of Smithfield Market.

(c) Other Foods.

Nothing of an unusual character came to my notice during the year.

(d) Bakehouses.

Visits are made periodically to ensure cleanliness.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year

(i) By Local Authority ...	...	Nil
(ii) By Other Local Authority ...	...	Nil
(iii) By Other Bodies or Persons	...	15
	Total	15

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	Inspection	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories	9	Nil	Nil
Workshops	11	Nil	Nil
Workplaces	4	Nil	Nil
Total	24		

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Found	Number of defects Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	Nil	Nil
Other Nuisances	0	0	Nil	Nil
Total	2	2		

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH C. HICKS,
Sanitary Inspector.

Section D.

Housing.

During 1938 15 houses have been erected by private enterprise. There are approximately 45 houses empty in the town. Below are given in tabular form the housing statistics.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 41

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 41

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 31

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 33

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... 31

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers (included 13 carried forward from last year) ... 36

3. Action under Statutory powers during the Year:

(a)—Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ... 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(*a*) By owners ... ...

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(c)—Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were made .. Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 4

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 4

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 33

(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil

Section E.

Inspection of Food.

Milk Supply.

Visits of inspection were paid to the Cowsheds and Dairies. The sanitary conditions were satisfactory. For particulars of inspections, etc., see Sanitary Inspectors Report in Section C.

Meat and Bakehouses.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Shell Fish (Mulluxan)

In accordance with the Public Health (cleansing of Shell-fish) Act 1932 all Oysters taken from the layings in Brightlingsea Creek are passed through the Oyster Purification Tanks before being placed on the market.

During 1938; 4,361,107 oysters were marketed from Brightlingsea after cleansing, an increase of 602,445 over the previous year. For particulars of the process see 1936 Annual Report.

Below is given in tabular form particulars with respect to inspection of animals slaughtered for food in Brightlingsea.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	...	...	...	...	...
Number Inspected	36 not kept separate		2	65	27
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole Carcase condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	.	...
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis only Whole Carcases condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...

Section F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The undermentioned cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year 1938.

Scarlet Fever	8
Diphtheria	0
Pneumonla	1

These numbers give an incidence per 1,000 of the population 1.9 for Scarlet Fever and .23 for pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever.

Of the 8 cases of Scarlet Fever notified 3 occured during the first quarter and they represented the termination of the small epidemic which commenced in September 1937. The cases were mild in character. The remaining cases were sporadic.

Influenza.

It may be said that the district escaped influenza during 1938.

Hospital Treatment.

Where possible cases are isolated in their own homes. If this is not advisable they are sent to the Colchester Borough Isolation Hospital, the Council having an Agreement with that Authority.

Tuberculosis.

Below is given in tabular form the number of new cases and the deaths from Tuberculosis during 1938.

	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non. Respiratory		Respiratory		Non. Respiratory	
Age Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 . .	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1 . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
5 . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 . .	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
25 . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 . .	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
45 . .	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
55 . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3	1	1	1	...	1	.	..
Total	4		2		1			

The one death which occured was non-notified.

Number of cases on the register at the end of December 1938.

Respiratory 26 } 49
Non Respiratory 23 }